

July 17, 2000

Mr. Carl Strock  
Brigadier General U. S. Army  
Division Engineer  
P. O. Box 2870  
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Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Rex T. Horn, Saint Joseph, Missouri.

In Missouri, the Missouri River is vital to Industry, Private Investors, Municipal Operation, Corporations, Agriculture and Missouri Air National Guard.

General Strock, I quote from the letter of June 15th: you and the people you represent were to "focus on closing the investment gap to insure continued national prosperity, competitiveness, quality of life and environmental sustainability". We concur that you should be congratulated on your outlook. If present practice of flooding lower Missouri Basin continues there will be a big reduction of business in this area. A large number will be bankrupt in the near future.

There are 4 million people in the Missouri River and Mississippi River Valley from St. Joseph to New Orleans who would have improved benefits from better control of stream flows in these rivers.

In St. Joseph the Missouri Air National Guard have stopped an 80 million dollar expansion due to the operation of Missouri River, which is susceptible to flooding the air field. It has been indicated that another flood of the field would force the Air Guard to relocate. At this air field they have 700 full time employees and a large number of Service Men are active fully and part time. In foreign conflicts they have been activated to transport men, material and equipment during time of conflict. They have a 5 million dollar payroll.

In St. Joseph the Missouri Water Company have relocated and constructed new water supply for this area. In rate negotiations the individual water bills which are \$80.00 may be increased to \$250.00 per month. Reported in the "Join the Dialogue" by U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. "Every dollar invested in flood damage reduction projects prevents almost \$6.00 in flood damage".

Mr. Richard Oppen has stated in their Missouri River Basin Associations News they favor flood control on the lower Missouri Basin if it does not interfere with plans which they support in the upper basin. This would make the operation a success at the expense of the lower basin.

Let us examine the Army News Release: In April 8, 1999, they quoted second highest power generation in March.. In lower river basin they had poorest flood control since 1993.

On May 9, 2000 News Release the electric generation was 103% of of normal. There weren't any serious floods in lower basin in year 2000 to date.

When these conditions are analyzed it would appear that lower basin operation has very little effect on the output of electric generation or the dams are controlled for maximum generation at the expense of flood control in lower basin.

The U. S. Corps of Engineers appear to have the experience and ability to operate the system for average benefits for all the people in the basin, if the powerful agencies would permit the engineers to operate for best control of all concerned.

In conclusion we want the best flood control the Engineers can operate without severe damage to other groups and agencies in the Missouri River Basin.

Sincerely,

*Rex T. Horn*

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